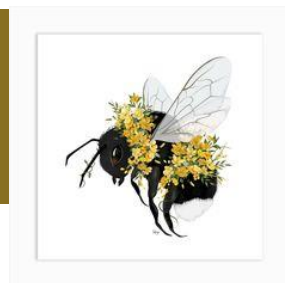


East Texas Beekeepers Association



October Report by Jim Biles

I recently found myself reflecting on all of the beekeepers I've worked with over the course of time. The number is larger than you may think. In my 23 years of beekeeping, I can remember at least 3 dozen people that I've worked with, and I'm pretty sure there's more. The first one was my Dad. Neither one of us knew anything about managing bees, but we had a lot of fun and good times! Some of my best beekeeping experiences were a number of firsts with my dad.....first bees, first extraction, first bottled honey, first mite treatment, etc. Some of you may enjoy the solitude of working bees alone, but for me, the experience is almost always enhanced when I'm working with another beekeeper. This is the reason I elect to mentor new beekeepers. I like meeting new people, an extra set of hands is really useful, and I generally learn something by working with the new folks. Whether you've been keeping bees for decades or you're a "newbee", I challenge you to go out of your way to find someone to work bees with. You'll probably be glad you did.

I want to say a big **"Thanks"** to all of you that helped with the Fair Booth this year. We set up a committee to help with all of the coordination and these folks were a **HUGE** help! We also had a number of member volunteers to work the booth during the Fair.....this would not be possible without you! The Fair re-instated morning school visits this year and we had some members that went the extra mile to talk bees with the school kids. All of this took place with a back drop of the Fair moving to a new location and all of the changes that went with that. The bottom line is that we delivered a quality product in our mission to educate the public about honey bees. I appreciate this more than you'll ever know!

President—Connie Collins
Vice-President—Joe Laws
Exec. Director/Reporter— Jim Biles
Treasurer—Jennifer Palmer
Secretary—Tish Kennedy
Member-at-Large—Jamie Crain
Program Director — Christina Williams
Newsletter Editor—Jenifer Babyak
Webmaster—Ken Wilkinson



Next Meeting

October 3rd

Whitehouse Methodist Church
405 West Main in Whitehouse

6:30 PM

On the Web:
www.etba.info

FYI

by Christina Williams

The October Program...

Join us this month for our speaker,

Garrett Slater

Apiculture Extension Agent for Texas A&M
with 12 years of beekeeping experience.

He is going to talk about the new extension programming,
including the new programs they are developing.

Also, he will be speaking about his research in Overton,
which focuses on breeding and genetics.

Hope to see you there!

Practical Experiences in the Bee Yard

by Stan Brantley



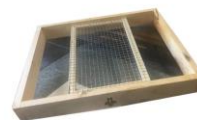
October in most of the ArkLaTex should continue to be very warm. Weeds and flowers in fields and river bottoms will continue to bloom and produce some nectar and plentiful pollen. I live on a dead-end street and the city doesn't seem concerned about pristine roadside and ditch management past my driveway. Consequentially I have Tallow bushes and Vitex growing in the ditch, along with some Goldenrod. Four of the Goldenrod plants in the middle of the Tallow and Vitex jungle are about eight feet tall. There are five or six bud stalks at the top of each Goldenrod plant, each about six inches long and already showing the beginnings of the yellow Goldenrod blossoms. Soon, the hives in my yard will have a really close source of Goldenrod pollen and nectar to collect for winter stores.

My area does not have an abundance of forage sources for the bees to work. If I am lucky, there will be fields with Golden Sunflowers for the bees to investigate. Horsemint and some of the other well-known nectar sources are not abundant in my part of the bee range.

If you are not sure of the fall forage in your area, check your hives to see how much food they were able to store in the later part of the nectar flow. A minimum of a full super of stores is necessary for a hive to survive our winter. If your hives are short on stored food, feed 2:1 sugar syrup. The heavier mixture will in most cases induce the bees to store the syrup for winter food. Your goal is to ensure the hive goes into winter well fed, with healthy "fat" bees and sufficient stores to get the hive into spring and ready to expand early.

While you are checking stores is a good time for a mite check. We can expect the bee population in a hive to decline as we move into the colder months. You want to reduce your mite load to acceptable levels to help your hive survive the winter. If the mite count is too high, do a treatment before the weather gets cold. There are some treatments that can be done with the supers in place, other require the supers to be removed. READ the package label and FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS! If you select HopGuard II as a treatment, be advised the hive needs to be well vented to prevent killing the bees.

Later in the winter, we sometimes feed pollen patties to help prepare the hive for early spring expansion. The hive beetle is also fond of pollen patties. They like to hide underneath the patty and lay their eggs. There is a relatively new product available to help deal with the beetle problem. It is marketed under the name of Internal Sugar Brick & Pollen Patty Tray/Feeder Shim. It is a very shallow super with a screen to hold the pollen patty off the Top Bars or Inner Cover. This prevents beetles from hiding underneath the patty to escape the bees. It is available from some bee equipment suppliers. I suggest you consider using them or a similar product if you plan to use pollen patties. Here is a link to a video showing the tray and how it is used: The link unfortunately begins with an ad but you can skip it.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b5gCslkPGT0>

I am still getting calls from beekeepers about a hive having no bees but everything looked ok ten days ago. One possibility is that the brood box became honey bound and the queen had no space left to lay eggs. When the queen has no place to lay her eggs, she will often abandon the hive, regardless of the time of year. On double brood box hives, it is easy to check the top brood box but more difficult to check the bottom box. Always take the time to check the bottom brood box to see if the frames have space for the queen to use. If the bottom box is full of honey and pollen, consider adding a box of foundation between the top and bottom brood boxes. The bees will draw the foundation and use the additional space for eggs. The box of drawn comb can be removed when the laying season is over and you will have a box of drawn comb for future use.



Got Questions?

Question & answer group will meet from 6:00-6:30 before the meeting. Join us if you are a new beekeeper or just have beekeeping questions? We'll try to get you some answers!

Jennifer Palmer - Treasurer

Well, I think it is going to start cooling off. I for one do not do cold weather but cooler could be good. This year has been a pretty good year, for me. I think I got 45 gallons of honey. To be productive in this field is hard work. I'm probably not the best beekeeper but work hard on trying to keep good hives. We are in the process of getting the bees ready for winter and working hives on the weekends when I can. I always run behind on getting all the honey off and treating my hives; it is just one person. If you work bees, you know it is hot in the suit.

When working my hives, I just want to make sure the bees have a place to lay more eggs and not be honey bound. Honey bound is when all the frames have honey, and there is nowhere for the queen to lay her eggs.

Rearrange the frames to keep this from happening. The next step is to do a mite check and treat.

I hope all are doing well in their hives and wish you good luck on the winter to come. I have been hearing that the almanac is predicting a bad winter. Remember bees can take care of themselves as long as they are strong and healthy.

I hope what I have written helps someone. Just a little note from the Treasurer!



BEEKEEPING SUPPLY SHOP

**ALL ETBA MEMBERS RECEIVE A
10% DISCOUNT ON ALL
BEEKEEPING RELATED ITEMS.
SOME EXCLUSIONS APPLY.**

**NOW OPEN! M-SAT
9:00-6:00**

SUNDAY 9:00-5:00

• TOOLS • PPE • BEES • HIVES • CLASSES



ESTD

2015

PLANTS *of* TEXAS

Homegrown Garden Goods

**Located at: 17470 FM
2493 Flint, TX**

Call us: 903-426-2558

www.plantsoftexas.com



HONEY FARMS

WHITEHOUSE, TEXAS

CONNIE COLLINS
(903) 316 - 6335
CONNIE@CNCFARMS.COM
WWW.CNCFARMS.COM

FOR SALE:
NUCS & SINGLE HIVES
QUEEN CELLS
HIVE RENTALS

ELZNER FARMS

1080 JENNINGS RD. JACKSONVILLE, TX 75766

LOCAL HONEY - BEES - AG EXEMPTION

WWW.ELZNERFARMS.COM
ELZNERFARMS@GMAIL.COM



MEAGAN ELZNER
BEEKEEPER/OWNER
618.410.6239

ISAAC ELZNER
BEEKEEPER/OWNER
713.504.3635